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MINISTER PRENTICE ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR OF THE INUVIALUIT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SCREENING COMMITTEE

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OTTAWA (April 2, 2007) – The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced the appointment of Fred McFarland as the new Chair of the Inuvialuit Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) *(external link, opens a new window)* .

"Mr. McFarland has been a leader in his field. I am confident that he will continue to apply his professional excellence to the position of Chair," said Minister Prentice. "I welcome Mr. McFarland as an outstanding addition to the Inuvialuit Environmental Impact Screening Committee."

Mr. McFarland has over 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors as a resource management and environmental consultant. He is experienced in environmental assessments of resource-based activities and has contributed to multi-disciplinary teams for major northern projects. Mr. McFarland has also worked extensively to develop federal land-use and fur-trade policies.

The EISC administers environmental screenings of proposed development projects in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and is responsible for developing operational guidelines and determining project impact on the area or its wildlife. Proposals have included permit applications for mineral exploration and extraction, industrial site restoration, provision of water rights, tourism ventures and land use for government-sponsored research.

The committee has seven members, three of whom are appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council and three are appointed by the Government of Canada in cooperation with the Yukon Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Chair is selected by the Government of Canada with the consent of the Inuvialuit.

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Biographical notes - Fred McFarland

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Biographical Note

Mr. Fred McFarland

Mr. Fred McFarland is a resource management and environmental consultant with over 30 years experience working in the public and private sectors. The majority of this experience has been associated with activities taking place in northern Canada and the circumpolar Arctic. Mr. McFarland has been involved in the environmental assessments of hydro-electric developments in Labrador and Québec; hydro-carbon developments in the Mackenzie Delta and pipeline proposals, both past and recent in the western Arctic, eastern Arctic and the Arctic islands; mining developments in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut (uranium, diamonds, gold and base metals); and infrastructure developments in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. In addition to evaluating many development proposals, Mr. McFarland has participated in a multi-disciplinary team tasked with the identification of research needs and monitoring programs associated with the Mackenzie Delta and Mackenzie Valley development projects.

Mr. McFarland took part in the negotiations of aboriginal land claim agreements in the Northwest Territories and Yukon and was responsible for the early implementation of the environmental screening and review provisions of the Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Land Claim Agreement of 1984. He played a lead role in the development and implementation of the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement between the federal and territorial governments and three Aboriginal organizations. His work portfolio includes negotiations on the Canada-United States Agreement on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and participation on Canadian delegations and initiatives of the circumpolar Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy and Arctic Council.

Mr. McFarland has been involved in the development of government policies related to land-use activities, national and international fur trade issues, transfer of federal authorities to the territorial governments and the unauthorized use of Crown lands. For his involvement in the environmental assessment of Canada's first diamond mine and activities associated with obtaining an international agreement on humane wild fur standards, Mr. McFarland was honoured with two awards of excellence by the Canadian government.

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